

# HEART OF AMERICA

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## MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS REVIEW

A MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER SERVING THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS UNITS OF IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI AND NEBRASKA

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### Scholarships Available for MRC Conference

Like last year, the MRC national program office is offering "scholarships" for attendance at the 2006 MRC National Leadership and Training Conference. A limited amount of funding is available to provide scholarships of \$500 to help defray conference costs for representatives of MRC units that are **NOT** funded through the MRC Demonstration Project. Since funds are limited, it is possible that some units will not receive scholarships. Selection of scholarship recipients will be made by the OSG/MRC program staff, based on a competitive evaluation of proposals. Applicants will be required to submit a CV or biographical statement ("bio") and a 250 word essay describing "What you hope to get out of the 2006 MRC National Leadership & Training Conference." Only one scholarship will be awarded per unit, and funds may only be used for expenses associated with the National Leadership and Training Conference. As part of the evaluation for the scholarship, the OSG/MRC program staff will review the MRC website to ensure that the information about the MRC unit is current. **Therefore, it is highly recommended that the MRC unit profile be updated.**

Scholarship-related questions and proposals, **due by February 16, 2006**, should be e-mailed to [sschaffzin@osophs.dhhs.gov](mailto:sschaffzin@osophs.dhhs.gov).

To update your unit information on the MRC website, go to:

<http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/index.cfm?MRCAction=MRCunit.Contact>, and click on the name of your unit to review the profile. If revisions and additions need to be made, the MRC director or coordinator should then log-in to update this information.

If you are an MRC director or coordinator and have not previously registered to use the Member Resources area of the MRC website, please register as a new user (<http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/index.cfm?MRCAction=UserLogin.RegisterForm>) to maintain your MRC unit profile, read and post messages to the MRC Message Boards, and much more.

If further assistance is needed for updating your unit profile, please send an e-mail message to [MRCcontact@osophs.dhhs.gov](mailto:MRCcontact@osophs.dhhs.gov) or call (301) 443-4951.

### Upcoming Events and Training

**27<sup>th</sup> Annual International Disaster Management Conference.** February 9-12, 2006 in Orlando, FL. Sponsored by the Emergency Medicine Learning and Resource Center. For more information, visit the conference website at [www.emlrc.org/disaster2006.htm](http://www.emlrc.org/disaster2006.htm).

Office of Public Health and Science, Department of Health and Human Services, Region VII  
601 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Room S1801, Kansas City, MO 64106 (816) 426-2829 (816) 426-2178 Fax

**2006 Local, State and Federal Public Health Preparedness Summit.** February 21-24, 2006 in Washington, D.C. Sponsored by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). For more information, visit the conference website at <http://www.naccho.org/phprep06/>.

**2006 MRC National Leadership Conference.** April 18-21, 2006 in Dallas, TX. Sponsored by the MRC National Program Office. For more information, visit [www.medicalreservecorps.gov](http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov).

**Mass Fatality Incidents for Medicolegal Professionals.** May 15-19, 2006 in Ashburn, VA. Sponsored by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). For more information, call (571) 223-3907 or visit the NTSB website at [www.nts.gov/academy/](http://www.nts.gov/academy/).

**5<sup>th</sup> UCLA Conference on Public Health and Disasters.** May 21-24, 2006 in Long Beach, CA. Sponsored by the UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters. For more information, visit [www.cphd.ucla.edu/conferenceframe.htm](http://www.cphd.ucla.edu/conferenceframe.htm).

**Risk Communication Challenge: Proven Strategies for Effective Risk Communication.** May 22-24, 2006 in Boston, MA. Sponsored by the Harvard School of Public Health. For more information, visit [www.hsph.harvard.edu/ccpe/programs/RCC.shtml](http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/ccpe/programs/RCC.shtml).

## Registration Open for MRC Conference

The MRC national program office is happy to announce that **registration is now open for the 2006 MRC National Leadership and Training Conference**, which will be held in Dallas, Texas from April 18-21, 2006. To register, please visit the MRC homepage ([www.medicalreservecorps.gov](http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov)) and click on the "2006 National Leadership and Training Conference" button on the bottom, center portion the screen. This button will display pages with more detailed information on the conference and links to registration, hotel accommodations and more.

In addition to the concurrent sessions, this year's conference will offer a **Networking/Information Sharing Session** (breakout session by MRC unit focus area and affiliation). The session will serve as a forum to discuss key MRC topics/issues (liability, credentialing, sustainability, etc.) with other leaders who come from similar housing organizations, MRC models and unit focus areas—taking into account each other's like circumstances. This will be another outstanding way to share information and best practices. When registering

for the conference, please indicate on the registration form which two areas most accurately describe your unit's focus area and affiliation under "Branch/Division." The unit focus areas (attendee affiliation) to choose from include:

- Health Department or Board of Health Based
- Emergency Management Based
- Hospital or Health System Based
- University Based
- Non-Profit Based or Faith Based
- New Unit (established in the past 6-12 months)
- Urban Based
- Rural Based
- Public Health Initiatives Focus
- Medical Surge/Mass Dispensing Focus

Please feel free to send an e-mail message to [MRCcontact@osophs.dhhs.gov](mailto:MRCcontact@osophs.dhhs.gov), or call (301) 443-4951 with any questions or if you need further assistance. We look forward to seeing you in Dallas, Texas on April 18, 2006!

## More NIMS Resources Available Online

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) Integration Center has recently added a number of NIMS-related resources to its website at [www.fema.gov/nims](http://www.fema.gov/nims). These resources include the following:

- ***Integrating NIMS into State EOPs and SOPs and Integrating NIMS into Local/Tribal EOPs and SOPs*** - outlines ways state and local incident managers can modify emergency operations plans and standard operating procedures/guidelines to align with NIMS concepts and terminology
- ***Training Guidelines for ICS Instructors, January 2006*** - provides direction on training needed by ICS instructors and for agencies that offer ICS training programs
- ***FY06 NIMS Training Requirements*** - details required components of NIMS-compliant ICS training
- ***Summary of FY06 NIMS Training Requirements*** - outlines NIMS, NRP and ICS training that responders at various levels need to complete during FY06

- **FY06 NIMS Compliance Package** - outlines activities that states, local and tribal jurisdictions must complete by September 30, 2006, the last day of the current federal fiscal year
- **National Standard Curriculum: Training Development Guidance, October 2005** - guidelines document for NIMS-compliant ICS training
- **NIMS, NRP and ICS Training Fact Sheets** - may be found at [www.fema.gov/nims/nims\\_training.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/nims/nims_training.shtm).

According to the NIMS Integration Center, all personnel with a direct role in emergency preparedness, incident management or response must complete *IS-700 NIMS, An Introduction*, which is a Web-based awareness level course that explains NIMS components, concepts and principles. All entry, first line supervisor, middle management, and command and general staff level of emergency management operations must complete ICS-100 level training; first line supervisors and above must complete ICS-200 during the 2006.

Emergency managers and personnel with incident management as their primary responsibility must also complete *IS-800 National Response Plan (NRP): An Introduction*, a Web-based awareness level course that introduces key elements of the National Response Plan.

The NIMS Integration Center is also asking jurisdictions to promote mutual aid agreements, use plain English in emergency operations, and incorporate NIMS components into emergency plans and procedures. Other required activities involve training, exercises and resource management planning, such as taking an inventory of response assets and developing plans for ordering, tracking, receiving and returning resources as outlined in the NRP.

Over the course of FY06, NIMS-related activities that jurisdictions will need to accomplish include officially adopting NIMS for all government departments and agencies, and using the NIMS-based Incident Command System (ICS) organizational structures and operational procedures to manage emergency incidents.

The NIMS Integration Center also recommends that, where appropriate, states encourage and support a regional approach to NIMS implementation among their jurisdictions. The successful implementation of NIMS depends on the participation and integration of all states

and local jurisdictions, as well as community-based organizations and their private sector partners.

According to the NIMS Integration Center, tribal and local authorities, not the federal government, have the primary responsibility for preventing, responding to, and recovering from emergencies and disasters. The benefit of NIMS is most evident at the local level, when a community as a whole prepares for and provides an integrated response to an incident. Incident response organizations, such as emergency medical services, public works, fire, law enforcement, private sector entities and non-governmental organizations must work together to comply with NIMS components, policies and procedures.

In order to receive FY07 federal preparedness funding, states and territories will have to certify that they and the local and tribal jurisdictions within their boundaries have completed the FY06 NIMS requirements.

Full NIMS implementation is a dynamic process and the NIMS Integration Center expects that future changes to NIMS will evolve as policy and technical issues are further developed and clarified at the national level, according to the NIMS Integration Center. This may result in additional requirements as to what will constitute continuous full NIMS compliance in FY07 and beyond.

For more detailed information on NIMS and NIMS compliance activities, visit [www.fema.gov/nims](http://www.fema.gov/nims).

## Mid-America MRC Recognizes Volunteers

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, the Mid-America MRC recognized the contributions and service of several of its outstanding volunteers during a Volunteer Recognition Reception. The following Mid-America MRC volunteers were recognized:

### Outstanding Unit Participation Award

- Charlene Garrison
- Sharon Kuba
- Luisa Lotuaco

### Outstanding Community Service Award

- Doris Elliott-Watson
- Dr. James Fleming
- Sue Scholl



**Outstanding Unit Service Award**

- Russ Andrews
- Dee Bauer
- Dr. Lori Boyajian-O'Neill
- Robert Chapman
- Dr. Fazle Kahn
- Jaci Mairs

In addition to honoring outstanding volunteers, the Mid-America MRC also recognized the efforts of unit leaders and Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) staff:

- Susan Hoskins, MRC Unit Commander
- Karen Whitlow, MRC Coordinator
- Marlene Nagel, MARC Community Development Director
- Susan Hard, MARC Public Health Manager
- Michele Gray, MARC Program Assistant



Dr. Luisa Lotuaco (left) receiving a Mid-America MRC certificate for Outstanding Unit Participation from Commander Susan Hoskins (center) and MARC Public Health Manager Susan Hard (right)



Michele Gray (back), MARC Program Assistant, is thanked for her countless hours of unparalleled support to the Mid-America MRC

**Northeast Missouri MRC Volunteer in the "Spotlight"**

Each month on its website, the MRC National Program Office spotlights volunteers, units and organizations that highlight the MRC program's mission; underscore the importance of volunteerism; and promote collaboration at the local, state, and national levels. **Dr. Toni Smith**, a member of the Northeast Missouri MRC since its inception in September 2003, has been recognized in the Volunteer Spotlight for January 2006. Dr. Smith is an anesthesiologist at the Northeast Regional Medical Center in Kirksville, an Associate Professor of Anesthesiology and Chair of the Surgery Division at A.T. Sill University of Health Sciences in Kirksville, and a member of the Missouri State Board of Healing Arts.

Carmen Stanton, Project Coordinator for the Northeast Missouri MRC, describes Dr. Smith as someone who is very dedicated to her work and is involved in several organizations. She is a volunteer who truly wants to make a difference. For instance, Dr. Smith did not view her deployment to assist with the Hurricane Katrina response and recovery efforts as a choice; rather, it was something she felt had to be done to help others in need.

Dr. Smith deployed to Mississippi for two weeks via the MRC to support the American Red Cross. She spent time in three different areas of the Gulf Coast and provided first aid care at ARC service centers, which allowed her to see people that were in great medical need and found it fulfilling to render care at the front lines of the disaster. It allowed her to use skills that she would not typically use as an anesthesiologist in the operating room environment. Dr. Smith felt that the highlights of her experience in the Gulf Coast were making a difference in the lives of people she treated and working with volunteers from various backgrounds and learning their motivations for volunteering, since many of them had never before volunteered in a disaster. Dr. Smith found it all very gratifying and describes her experience in the Gulf Coast as the most rewarding and life-changing event of her life.

The entire Volunteer Spotlight on Dr. Smith is available at the following MRC website address:

[www.medicalreservecorps.gov/page.cfm?pageID=1712](http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/page.cfm?pageID=1712)

Congratulations to Dr. Smith for her outstanding contributions to the Northeast Missouri MRC, to her community, and to the nation!